

CC96-45

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MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

May 1, 1997

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20054

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act - through its Universal Service Fund provisions - mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century. As of now our school system is unable to afford Internet capabilities to extend access to each classroom. Our local telephone company has been reluctant to give our schools reduced rates. We would like for our students to have the same opportunities that are afforded to students in more affluent areas. Without the passage of the Telecommunications Act, there is very little hope that we will ever be able to provide this opportunity.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to the schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

Joan Stevenson

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May 1, 1997

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Sincerely,

Joanne Vaughn

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Sincerely,

Ethel Ann Dixon



Telfair County High School

1900 SOUTH THIRD AVENUE
McRAE, GEORGIA 31055-2599

(912) 868-6096
FAX # (912) 868-7221

May 2, 1997

ANTHONY N. McIVER
Principal

JEFF CHEEK
Assistant Principal

CHARLES HOUSE
Vocational Supervisor

SUNSHINE PERIOD

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M ST, NW Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20054

MAY 8 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As educators in Telfair County Schools in McRae, Georgia, we are interested proponents of distance learning and modern telecommunications services for our students' best interests. It is, however, increasingly difficult to fund even entrenched methods of teaching and learning in small, rural school systems with the tax base presently established. For that reason we would strongly advocate significant discounts in telecommunications services for our schools and county library, as well as for other school systems in Georgia.

We are aware that the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the FCC recommendations to provide discounts on commercial services for educational organizations. We urge your serious consideration of those recommendations, which we believe will make a desirable impact on our teaching methods, and our students' needs in education will be met more effectively.

By copy of this letter, we are encouraging our Georgia Public Service Commission to support the discounts recommended.

We appreciate your consideration and thank you for the vast amount of time required to contemplate these decisions. The favorable effect on our children and all interested citizens in our particular area will be significant.

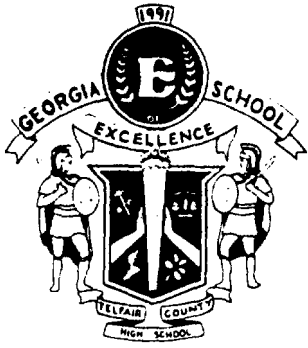
Sincerely,

Anthony McIver, Principal

/lbh

cc: Mr. Stan Wise, Chairman
GA Public Service Commission

attachment: signature page



Telfair County High School

1900 SOUTH THIRD AVENUE
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ANTHONY N. McIVER
Principal

JEFF CHEEK
Assistant Principal

CHARLES HOUSE
Vocational Supervisor

Oliver Peterson
Timothy Oree
Cindy Jones
Steve Smith
Mary Ann Lyons
Nancy Breen
Scarlett S. Douglas
Kathy Z. Hendricks
Connie M. Graves
Julie Bass
Susan Rodgers
Jeff Clark
Gloria L. Webb

Lynne S. Hanchman
Jean M. Vaughn
John P. Bartlett
James A. Hammock
Charles House
William L. Hudgens
Christine Whatley-Willcox
Thomas W. Beacham
Donna F. Beacham
James C. Henderson

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL

1300 E. Northern Parkway
Baltimore, MD 21239-1998
410-433-8880
FAX: 410-323-8816



April 28, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hunt
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am Kim Sheridan, Teacher, Mercy High School, Baltimore, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunication Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you,

Kim Sheridan

Kim Sheridan

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April 28, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hunt
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1919 M Street, NW
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Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am Tricia Potts, Teacher, Mercy High School, Baltimore, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

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I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you,

Tricia Potts

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RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am Erica Barden, Teacher, Mercy High School, Baltimore, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

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I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you,

Erica Barden

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April 28, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hunt
Commissioner
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1919 M Street, NW
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RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am Terri Pohl, Technology Coordinator, Mercy High School, Baltimore, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunication Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

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Thank you,

Terri Pohl

Terri Pohl

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The Honorable Reed Hunt
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1919 M Street, NW
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RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am Joyce Rizzi, Teacher, Mercy High School, Baltimore, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

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Thank you,

Joyce Rizzi

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RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am Krista Andersen, Teacher, Mercy High School, Baltimore, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

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I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you,

Krista Andersen

Krista Andersen

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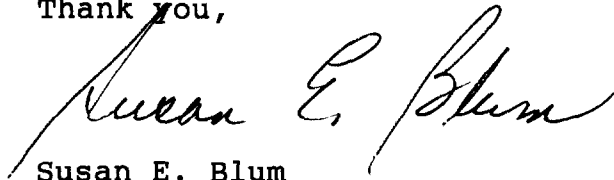
Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am Susan E. Blum, Teacher, Mathematics Dept., Mercy High School, Baltimore, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

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Susan E. Blum

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Sincerely,

Shelly J. Schlerer

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Sincerely,

Betty B. Varnadoe

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Sincerely,

Barbara Moore



Paso Robles Teachers Association
P.O. Box 1587 • Paso Robles, Ca. 93447



April 21, 1997

CC96-45

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. St. NW, Room 814
Washington DC 20554

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We urge your support of the Joint Board's recommendations. They will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's needs. These provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Susan Lewis

1. Colleen Macklin Musial
2. J Wood
3. Sue Larson
4. Carrie Gbypere
5. Jim Heunhart
6. K. Queen
7. Cecilia Hanks
8. Marianne Metcalf
9. K. Swan
- 10.

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Sincerely,

Elaine Neal



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY
65101

MEL CARNAHAN
GOVERNOR

May 1, 1997

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MAY - 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 216
(573) 751-3222

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Changes in telecommunications regulation are critically important to Missouri citizens and businesses.

I have closely followed the work of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service and related FCC actions. The 1996 Federal Telecommunications Act requires both state and federal regulators to act according to a very ambitious time schedule. I encourage you to extend every effort to meet this schedule and to pay particular attention to the May 8, 1997, target for an order on universal service.

Support from the universal service fund is critical to Missouri where we have a high cost of providing telecommunications services in rural areas. Support mechanisms need to be in place as early as possible so that state policies can be tailored to comport with federal regulations. In your deliberations on universal service and school discounts, please remember that rural citizens and communities in Missouri and across the nation depend on this support to participate in the benefits of advanced telecommunications technology.

Very truly yours,

Mel Carnahan

MC/bl

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Sincerely,

Maria M. McRae

C 096-45

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Washington, D.C. 20054

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act - through its Universal Service Fund provisions - mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century. As of now our school system is unable to afford Internet capabilities to extend access to each classroom. Our local telephone company has been reluctant to give our schools reduced rates. We would like for our students to have the same opportunities that are afforded to students in more affluent areas. Without the passage of the Telecommunications Act, there is very little hope that we will ever be able to provide this opportunity.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to the schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

Julio H. Hanson

CC 96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

May 1, 1997

Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20054

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

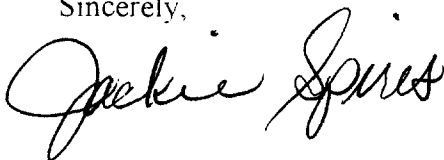
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Sincerely,

Marcia Cravey

CC 96-45
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SUNSHINE PERIOD

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20054

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Sincerely,

Lisa Cook
423 Hummingbird Lane
McRae, Georgia 31055

May 1, 1997

CC 96-45

Reed Hunt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D. C. 20054

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Office of Secretary

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Sincerely,

Nette McLean
Concerned Parent

CC96-45



Santa Maria-Bonita School District

Gail M. Tissier, Ed.D.
Superintendent

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

SOUZA STUDENT SUPPORT CENTER
708 South Miller Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454-6221
(805) 928-1783, Ext. 235

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Secretary

SUNSHINE PERIOD SENT VIA FACSIMILE & U. S. MAIL

May 1, 1997

Mr. Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St., NW, Rm. 814
Washington DC 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt:

The Santa Maria-Bonita School District, located on the Central Coast of California, is involved in implementing its long-range technology plan. Because most of our schools are over 30 years old, each needs to be rewired to meet the demands of technology. We have gone to bid for the wiring of our classrooms and each time the cost has been prohibitive.

It is our understanding that on May 8, 1997, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will vote on the final rules for dispersing as much as \$2.25 billion in telecommunications discounts for schools and libraries. This truly is a miracle! Our schools drastically need this support to bring educational technology to our children to meet the demands of the 21st Century.

Our school board set aside some money, however, it is not enough to bring the infrastructure of educational technology to our students' classrooms. Also, if we use this money to wire our schools then there will be no money left to purchase the hardware and software necessary to integrate our curriculum with the wonderful software support systems that presently exist for children.

The Santa Maria-Bonita School District strongly encourages the FCC to approve the recommendations of the Federal-State Joint Board for Universal Service for implementation of the discount plan to meet the requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Our school district has a very high concentration of economically disadvantaged students. These students need all the help and support that can be provided to assist them in reaching high academic standards. By approving the Federal-State Joint Board for Universal Service recommendations for implementation of the discount plan, you will greatly help bring about the academic success of our students.

Our students will truly be engaged in a global world of communications broadening their understanding of the world in which they live. Please make this miracle become a reality for our students by voting to approve the Federal-State Joint Board for Universal Service recommendations.

Sincerely,

Gail M. Tissier
GAIL M. TISSIER, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

c SMBSD Board of Education
The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Walter Capps
The Honorable Diane Feinstein
State Superintendent Delaine Eastin
California Public Utilities Commission

Student Success Is Our Business